

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

The title has been amended to read as follows.

--IMAGE PROCESSING METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR COLOR
CORRECTION OF AN IMAGE--.

Please replace the paragraph at page 12, lines 11-19, with the following amended paragraph.

--In a block B1, input R, G and B signals are converted into a brightness signal Y and color difference signals Cr and Cb. Then, smoothing processes are performed to the color difference signals Cr and Cb by signal smoothing units B3 and B2 to generate color difference signals Cr' and Cb', respectively. Further, in block B4, the brightness signal Y and the color difference signals Cr' and Cb' are inversely converted to R', G', and B' signals.--

Please replace the paragraph at page 24, lines 23-26, with the following amended paragraph.

--Here, in order to avoid descriptive complexity, the same steps as those in the first embodiment are added with the same symbols and the explanation thereof will be omitted. The explanation of step S4 in Fig. 4 applies to step S13 in Fig. 8.--

Please replace the paragraph at page 26, lines 6-15, with the following amended paragraph.

--Further, there is a case where it is intended, after the color noise reduction process, to perform an image process such as a lightness correction process or the like by using a lightness correction curve shown in Fig. 13. Also in this case, like the above, the pixel which essentially has the pixel value ["234"] 235 is changed to have the pixel value "234" or "236" because of the smoothing in the color noise reduction process, whereby a band unevenness part occurs between the paper white part and the dot-emitted part.--

Please replace the paragraph at page 43, lines 3-8, with the following amended paragraph.

--The sixth embodiment of the present invention will be explained with reference to Fig. 16. Hereinafter, in order to avoid explanatory complexity, the explanation of the same steps as those in the above embodiments will be omitted, and process procedures will be briefly described. The explanation of steps S65 and S66 in Fig. 5 applies to steps S76 and S77, respectively, in Fig. 16.--

Please replace the paragraph at page 44, lines 4-9, with the following amended paragraph.

--The seventh embodiment of the present invention will be explained with reference to Fig. 17. Hereinafter, in order to avoid explanatory complexity, the explanation of the same steps as those in the above embodiments will be omitted, and process procedures will be briefly described. The explanation of steps S73 to S77 in Fig. 16 applies to steps S81-S85, respectively, in Fig. 17.--